

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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P R 050415Z JUL 78 ZFG
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 6377
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T MANAMA 1535

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, XF, YE, YS, BA
SUBJECT: THE YEMENS: REPORT ON ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

1. MET AT MY REQUEST WITH FOREIGN MINISTER JULY 4 TO SHARE
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WITH HIM OUR VIEW OF SITUATION IN TWO YEMENS (STATE 164020)
AND TO ASK FOR HIS VIEW OF OUTCOME OF ARAB LEAGUE MEETING
IN CAIRO. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE FELT THAT UNANIMOUS
ACTION OF SEVENTEEN LEAGUE MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED WAS
IMPORTANT STEP IN ITSELF. WHAT WOULD FOLLOW RESOLUTION
PASSED THERE DEPENDED ON INDIVIDUAL STATES AND HE NOTED
LATE EVENING JULY 3 SAUDI RADIO STATEMENT THAT SAG HAS

FORMALLY DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT LEAGUE RESOLUTION. OF STATES ATTENDING, FONMIN SAID OMANIS FAVORED STRONG ACTION, CONVERT OR WHATEVER, IN ORDER TO BRING DOWN PDRY REGIME. OTHERS FELT THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE AND EVENTUALLY ALL AGREED ON THE RESOLUTION "FREEZING" RELATIONS, THOUGH KUWAIT WAS LUKEWARM ABOUT IT.

2. I ASKED WHAT "FROZEN" RELATIONS MIGHT LOOK LIKE. FONMIN SAID THAT ACTION DECIDED ON IS IN FACT ECONOMIC BOYCOTT. HE CONTINUED THAT SAUDIS AND GULF STATES, INCLUDING BAHRAIN, ARE TO STUDY NUMBER OF WAYS TO MAKE BOYCOTT REALLY FELT IN PDRY. FONMIN SAID FIRST THING BAHRAIN WILL EXAMINE IS POSSIBILITY OF PREVENTING BAHRAINI AND OTHER AREA BANKS FROM PASSING REMITTANCES TO ADEN. HE SAID THIS WOULD BE EXAMINED AS A BLANKET CONCEPT AND AS ONE WHICH MIGHT BE APPLIED SELECTIVELY. FONMIN ASKED IF USG HAD ANY DATA ON HOW MUCH FLOWED INTO PDRY AS REMITTANCES. I RECALLED FIGURE OF 90 MILLION DINARS FROM SANA 3073 AND GAVE HIM THAT, OF COURSE WITHOUT SOURCE. HE SEEMED IMPRESSED AND SAID HE WOULD SEE HOW MUCH OF THAT WAS PASSING THROUGH BAHRAIN.

3. FONMIN THEN SAID ONE OF MOST DISCUSSED TOPICS IN CAIRO WAS U.S. ROLE IN SUPPORTING ITS FRIENDS IN FACE OF GROWING SOVIET THREAT ON VERY DOORSTEPS OF
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AMERICA'S MAIN ALLIES IN AREA. HE RECALLED BRIEFING I HAD PROVIDED ON AFGHANISTAN, PARTICULARLY USG CONSIDERVSTION OF WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO FURTHER BOLSTER PAKISTAN, AND SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD DO THE SAME AND SOON FOR NORTH YEMEN. FONMIN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WHY (AND AGREED IN PRINCIPLE) WE WORKED IN YAR LARGELY THROUGH SAUDIS. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, SAUDIS SIMPLY SPREAD TOO THIN TO BE EFFECTIVE. HOW, HE ASKED, CAN SAUDIS HELP YAR ORGANIZE ITSELF WHEN SAG ITSELF HAS DIFFICULT TIME MAKING AND IMPLEMENTING ITS OWN PLANS.

R. FOREIGN MINISTER WARMED TO THIS SUBJECT AND URGED THAT USG TAKE MUCH MORE DIRECT ROLE IN HELPING YAR ESTABLISH A "REAL GOVERNMENT." HE SAID IN THIS REGARD THAT WE WHOULD PRESS SAUDIS TO STOP THEIR TRADITIONAL DIVISIVE MEDDLING AMONG NORTH YEMEN'S TRIBES AND STICK TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, FINANCIAL SUPPORT WHICH FONMIN SAID USG SHOULD HELP YAR USE WISELY. AS IT IS, ACCORDING TO FONMIN, TOO MUCH SAUDI MONEY ENDS IN PRIVATE YEMENI POCKETS BECAUSE SANA GOVERNMENTS ALWAYS HAVE BEEN TOO WEAK AND DISORGANIZED TO CONTROL SITUATION. AND THEY ALWAYS

WILL BE, HE CONTINUED, UNLESS USG GUIDES THEM TOWARD EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID OUR FIRST MOVES OUGHT TO BE TO HELP YAR MILITARY, POLICE, INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES GET A GRIP ON THE SITUATION. THEN, HE CONCLUDED, WE SHOULD HELP RESTRUCTURE YAR'S FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS.

5. I ASKED IF AT CAIRO YAR REPRESENTATIVES HAD REVEALED WHAT THEIR IMMEDIATE PLANS MIGHT BE. HE SAID HE FELT THEIR FIRST OBJECTIVE WAS IMPLY TO HOLD ON. THERE HAD BEEN SOME TALK ABOUT REDUCING OR MORE CLOSELY CONTROLLING PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES IN YAR OF SOVIET AND ARAB REJECTIONIST STATE
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MISSIONS BUT FONMIN SAID HE FELT SANA GOVERNMENT DID NOT YET FEEL STRONG ENOUGH FOR THIS COURSE. IN CONCLUDED MEETING BY NOTING THAT I WOULD KEEP HIM INFORMED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AS OUR OWN VIEWS AND COURSES OF ACTION EVOLVED.
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